CALUMNY CONDEMNED:

Or,

A true, exact, and ſober Account

Of the

Scotch PLOT:

For which many Worthy Officers were diſmiſſed their Commands, and caſhiered the ARMY.

By *J.B.* one of the then Caſhiered Officers, who yet remains an arrant Enemy to Tyranny, whether in one or many; and a dearly loving friend to *Engliſh* LIBERTY.

He that juſtifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the juſt, even they both are abomination to the Lord, Prov. 17.15.

LONDON,

Printed by *J.C.* for *L. Chapman,* 1659.

To all the Faithful and VVell-affected to Truth and Righteouſneſs, and its Friends, in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*.

Gentl. Friends, and fellow-Souldiers:

TIme ought to have a high eſteem put upon it for divers Reaſons; and among the reſt, for this, that our Bleſſed God by it, diſcovers and makes bare both perſons and things: and this ſhould teach us ſobriety and moderation, not to prejudge or paſs ſentence on either, before our time. Moſt men judge according to the ſorrow of the night, and then they muſt either judge their own judgments with ſhame, or perſiſt impenitently (which is worſe) when the joy of the morning coms. Nor is this the failer of the Enemies of God and his people only; no, *Eliphaz* the *Temanite*, and his two fellow-viſiters, the friends of both, may be (and too oft are) guilty hereof. And in ſuch a caſe there is nothing conſolatory to the lovers of truth, but to conſider that *Jobs* prayers muſt perfume their offerings, and make them acceptable. I could have been well content to have kept out of the throng and preſs at this time; but underſtanding from eminently honeſt Officers of the Army, that the Spirit that did, doth, and will let, till it be taken out of the way (a ſad ſight at this time of day, and that which moſt afflicts their beſt Friends) that when they impeach themſelves for Apoſtacie, and decry their own backſlidings, they ſtill retain their grutch againſt them that refuſed to go back to *Egypt* with them; and

instead of taking them into their bosoms, do backbite, secretly malign, and in a corner justifie their unjust and unreasonable proceeds against them: This truly, and nought else, occasioned these, that I might not be a silent consenter to, and confirmer of those unchristian reproaches my fellow-sufferers and my self do yet lie under. As also considering how our innocencie and integrity to God and our Country was publikely trod upon, and made a step to mount the late (and I hope the last) Tyrant higher; I thought it meet, in all humility, to make our Vindication, as large as was, or is, our Defamation. And therefore for the informing our Friends, and undeceiving of all, accept this following account of that which was called the *Scotch Plot*; and I do herein *Appeal to all*, or any of the Court-Martial that sate as Judges (whom I desire to forgive, and for animosities sake shall not nominate) whether I deal partially, or more respectfully to my self and fellow-sufferers, then the truth of the Case will carry.

Being at *Aberdeen* the beginning of *Dec.* 1654 under that truly Honorable Major Gen. *Overton*, I did perceive an eminent dissatisfaction upon the Spirits of most of the Souldiery in the North of *Scotland*; and having no less my self, there was frequent meetings among the Officers (at most, if not all of which, I was) to seek God for direction, how to behave our selves. And truly, it was more and more given in upon all our hearts, that we had deeply Apostatized from God, and from his Cause, and that it was a duty incumbent upon us, to endeavour the recovery of it and us; which we earnestly begg'd of God we might do in a most Christian procedure: and therefore because we considered we were not infallible, but might meet with conviction; We desired leave of our Major-Gen.

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in an orderly way, to ſend Letters to the ſeveral Regiments in *Scotland*, that ſome of our Friends might meet with us, to convince or adviſe us; having nothing more in our eye, then that if we found the ſame diſſatisfaction upon their Spirits alſo, we might together agree in a Petitionary way, to get it removed. The Major Gen. giving us leave according to our deſire, this following Letter word for word was writ, ſubſcribed by ſeven or eight with my ſelf, and ſent away to the ſeveral Regiments, directed to one Officer or other in each Regiment to be communicated, (*viz.*)

Dearly Beloved Brethren:

THe moſt high God hath ſet it upon our hearts, and we judge it ought never to be forgotten by us, the eminent mercies and deliverances the Lord of Hoſts hath made us Subjects of, and Inſtruments in; He hath call'd us forth in our generations to aſſert the Freedome of the People in the Priviledges of Parliament, for which have been expended vaſt treaſures, ſpilt much blood, put up into Heaven many prayers, powred out tears, and ſent down from Heaven many ſignal ſalvations: For the accompliſhment of which end, there lies upon us many Vows, Declarations, and Solemn Appeals to the moſt High. Now the price of all that Blood and Treaſure, the anſwer of all thoſe Prayers, the account of thoſe Tears, the improvement of thoſe ſalvations, the performances of all thoſe Vows, and Declarations, and the Vindication of our ſincerity in thoſe Appeals to God and the People, calls aloud upon us ſeriouſly to conſider, whether we may quietly ſit down ſatisfied with the preſent ſtate of Publike Affairs, and with comfort look the King of terrors in the face, as having obtained our end, and faithfully ſerv'd our generations! Or whether (except we do ſomewhat more) the guilt of that Blood, the breach of Vows and truſt, the Prayers and Cries of Saints, and the Hypocriſies of our Profeſſions, will not lie heavie upon our Bodies, Conſcien-

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ces and Estates, till we return to the dust, and afterwards sink as to the bottomless pit. We being therefore pressed in our Spirits, do desire a meeting with you, or whom you shall appoint, to the end aforesaid. If a sense answerable to ours be not upon your hearts, and that you slight this Address, yet we shall have comfort in this, that in so much we have discharged our duty towards you. We remain,

Aberdeen 18 Decemb. 1654. Your faithful and affectionate friends.

Possscript.

The place appointed to meet at, is the *Green Dragon* in *Canny-gate* at *Edenburgh*, by 4 hours in the evening, on the first of *January*. Inquire for *John Loveland*.

However any did judge both of this Letter and us, I do appeal to the Consciences of all unbyassed men that read it, whether there's any one sillable in it, that is inconsistent with Christianity, and what was then our duty.

This Letter being sent away, those that subscribed it provided for their journy to *Edinburgh*, the 27 of the same *Decemb.* At which time the Major Gen. gave my self and one more strict command to go to Gen. *Monk* then at *Dalkeith*, and to give him a true account of the Cause and intent of our meeting; which accordingly had been done, but the 28 we were apprehended and kept close prisoners at *Dundee*, from whence we were after transmitted to the Marshal General at *Edenburgh*, where we were kept under lock and key, being denied the favour afforded to publike Enemies then prisoners in the same place; where we continued till the 12 of *Feb.* all that time, no art nor diligence was neglected to find out matter to accuse us with: But our most high God (whom no goals could exclude) did muzzle every mouth; and though witnesses were sought, yet (magnified be eternal Mercy) none were found. Then did our Gen. *Monk* commission some Officers to examine us upon Oath against our selves, a most illegal and inhumane kind of dealing, and one of these things we jeoparded and lost our Bloods against. What threats and brow-beats some refusers had, its good to forget. The 16, 17, *and* 18. the Court-Marshal sat, and judged the Letter factious and seditious, and thereupon proceeded against my fellow sufferers and my self, dismissed us all of our Commands. I shall not enumerate their carriage towards us after Sentence, al-

although by the ſence they gave of ſome of us, it would aſtoniſh the Reader how ſo favourable a ſenſe and hard a ſentence could ſtand together. How after our diſmiſſion, we were ſome of us recommitted, and our Paroles refuſed, to tranſmit us neerer our Relations to ſome Engliſh Priſons: how at length, when out, we were in 2 days retaken, and hurried at pleaſure, our wives and ſervants kept from us, and not ſuffered to write nor to ſpeak with any one breathing but the Mr. of our bonds. I ſay, our thoughts are better of them that were thus bad to us; and I do from my whole heart forgive every inſtrument, that then anſwered every nod and beck of the Tyrant, becauſe I think they did it ignorantly: yet alſo would I be glad, and thouſands with me, to ſee their repentance bear a true proportion to their Apoſtacy; then would theſe Gally names of Levellers be left off, and they themſelves would wipe off the odium they ſecretly faſten on us yet: which, as I ſaid, is the prime intent of publiſhing theſe. And now I do upon the whole beſeech every diſcerning eye, to ſee wherein we were worthy of ſuch bitter uſage, and what Reaſon there is to retain ſuch a private ſtock of ſpleen, ſince they themſelves are now come in pretence (and I humbly hope in reality) to aſſert the ſame things we then thirſted after, and do now bleſs God and them for. Liberty now looks up, and ſurely ſhall never hang its head again; the Reſurrection is come, and the Grave-cloaths are caſting off; I therefore deſire to truſt him to finiſh, who hath again begun the *Old work* to his glory, and the perfecting Liberty; Liberty, honeſt, juſt, and common to every Engliſh-man. Now that we were thus caſt out of the Army, is obvious enough, and I think ſo far from being any objection or Argument againſt us, that it may rather be matter of mourning to them (except iniquity by a Law be a ſin of a leſſer magnitude, then one againſt it) then of any juſt exception againſt us. For I cann't beleeve it to be an article in their Creed, that that which is vice in others, is vertue in themſelves; becauſe vertue is not divers, but in perfect union in every owner of it; and the Junior Brother may with as much equity conſpire to cut the throat of the Elder, for being born before him; as the Army envy our proceeds, becauſe they were previous to their own: 'tis not a ſin for me to ſee the Sun an hour before another; why ſhould his ſleep make me wink alſo? Senſe of the Commonweal awakens me, whilſt humor or ſelf-intereſt makes another

ther drowſie: yet truly this I ſay, None ever yet got thanks for awakening him that loved his lethargy; yet cannot I beleeve, nor would I be underſtood, that this Diſeaſe is Epidemick, for then I ſhould belye my own judgment, and wrong the generation of the juſt. No, he's no *Engliſhman* that knows not how to love and honour the Army for their late tranſacts; nor can they well be praiſed too much for owning of their priſtine Principles; as on the other hand, I cannot call him prudent, that accounts them all for ſuch; 'tis mercy that there are ſo many, and would be juſtice if there were no others. For they ſtay to ſtrive to heal the deadly wound; or, which is worſe, to make another; theſe are friends to ought but freedom, and will drive as fierce to a ſecond, as they did to their firſt Apoſtacie: and I'll undertake to warrant (I pray I may repent this raſhneſs) that *Oligarchy* will next be extolled by theſe, as the beſt and only Government for this Nation, ſo that by ſowing new cloth into an old Garment (good and godly men into wicked and ungodly places) they may make our rent the worſe: and thus by making the ſhooe too narrow for the foot, will ſtill diſeaſe the Commonwealth. The preſent conjunction of Friends, ought not to indulge or incourage their ſiniſter attempts. For 'tis not perſons but things we all are fond of; and except we are put into what God and nature freely offers (*viz.*) a capacity neither to oppreſs nor be oppreſſed, we disjoyn again; & the Queſtion is rather to be feared then favoured, whether our God will honour us with another opportunity to heal the Nations.

I have nothing more to add, then to begg as I began, to have a care of judging; for I foreſee that ſome will bedirt this, as if we were ſneaking and thus pitifully begging our Commands again, then which there's nothing more abhorred. For as we dare not deny the ſerving God and our generations when call'd thereto; ſo neither can we club with, or eſpouſe our intereſt to any other, then what's the common concerns of all: and therefore the Queſtion is not, Whether we ſhall, or whether we will accept of our Commands; for we ſhould betray our Principles, ſhould we come in on any other terms if we might; and I need not crave a credit from the moſt common underſtanding, that a true Common-wealths-man can neither be treacherous to himſelf or others, except I could imagine there were a generation ſo groſſly ignorant, as to call Noon, Midnight.

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